SECURITY INFORMATION [redacted] (Not classified Unless Entered)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION
(SR 380-320-10)

DATE: 20 Sep 1954

PREPARING OFFICE
Hq USFA, AC of S, G2 (CIB/SSB), APO 168, US Army

SUBJECT
US Citizens reportedly Detained in USSR

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CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:		OF INFORMATION:	
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	A	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	1
USUALLY RELIABLE	B	PROBABLY TRUE	2
FAIRLY RELIABLE	C	POSSIBLY TRUE	3
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	D	DOUBTFULLY TRUE	4
UNRELIABLE	E	IMPROBABLE	5
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN	F	TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED	6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The following information was obtained from an Austrian journalist who allegedly was arrested in Vogtland, East Germany, on 22 December 1948 while on courier duty for a CIC agency. Source was imprisoned in various Soviet prisons from his arrest until June 1954. Source has been given an evaluation of "F".

1. Early in 1950 Source claims to have met an American army officer and two enlisted men in uniform (further data not known) in the Soviet screening prison in Halle, East Germany. The Americans told Source that they had been captured by Soviet troops when crossing the Bavarian zone border by mistake. The East German press announced that the Americans had asked for asylum. The three Americans were sentenced to forced labor for espionage and were transferred to a penal camp in Vorkuta, USSR, where Source later met them in November 1950.

2. Source claimed that in late 1953 he met one Mary HIRSCHFIELD, U. S. citizen, in the MVD prison Lyublyanka in Moscow. HIRSCHFIELD had formerly been a typist for the U. S. Embassy in Moscow. Fellow prisoners told Source that HIRSCHFIELD had been arrested in Moscow in early 1953 in connection with an espionage affair in a jet fighter plant in Moscow. Her trial took place in the above-mentioned prison in June 1953 and in November 1953 she was sentenced to 25 years forced labor. Source claimed that the Soviet chief engineer of the fighter plant was also arrested after he had taken a ride in the car of a U.S. Colonel, (fnu) HARVEY, first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

3. In the penal prisoners camp No. 9 in Vorkuta, Source met a former U.S. CIC Colonel who was known in the camp by his former German name, Fuerst von BRANDENFELS. Source knew that BRANDENFELS had changed his name when he became a U.S. citizen prior to World War II, but did not remember the American name of this man. BRANDENFELS claimed that he had been stationed in Berlin after World War II and had visited the Soviet Zone regularly with an East German pass for reasons unknown to Source. Once he visited the "Mexico" Bar in East Berlin and got involved in a dispute. The bar was then checked by Soviet troops and, since BRANDENFELS was drunk, he showed his CIC credentials instead of his East German pass and was arrested. BRANDENFELS was sentenced to 25 years forced labor for espionage in East Germany and was transferred to Vorkuta where he was still stationed when Source left in November 1951. Source believed that BRANDENFELS was employed as a laborer in a mining equipment repair shop.

4. According to hearsay, a former U.S. pilot, name and rank unknown, was confined in one of the camps in the Vorkuta area. Source heard that the pilot

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was engaged in the Berlin airlift in 1948-49. His plane crashed and he was the only crew member who succeeded in getting out of the plane with a parachute. The Soviets allegedly arrested the pilot, sentenced him for espionage, and never acknowledged his rescue.

5. In the Soviet screening prison in Halle, East Germany, Source met a former CIC sergeant, name unknown, who was also sentenced and transferred with Source to Vorkuta. Source claimed that the sergeant was of Austrian origin and had been adopted by an American when he was a child. Prior to World War II the sergeant had served in the U.S. Navy. During the war the sergeant was sent to Austria on a special mission, was arrested by the Germans in Vienna and sent to the concentration camp Schwabing because of espionage. In 1945 the sergeant was liberated by the Americans. At an unknown date following World War II the sergeant was sent on a special mission to the USSR but was arrested by the Soviets in East Germany.

6. Andreas BAUCHER, U.S. civilian, about 40 to 50 years old, formerly German citizen, had resided in Berlin-Wilmersdorf. BAUCHER had worked for U.S. intelligence since 1930 and received U.S. citizenship for his faithful service. BAUCHER allegedly changed his name, but his American name was unknown to Source. In 1948 he was sent by an unknown U.S. agency on a special mission to East Berlin and was arrested by the Soviets in a restaurant. He was sentenced to 25 years forced labor. Source met him in the penal prisoners camp No. 9 in Vorkuta.

7. Source stated that an unknown number of GI's were confined in the prison in Verkhne Uralsk, but was unable to identify the men further. Source had heard that these men were arrested for illegal border crossing either in Berlin or Vienna.

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